DESCRIPTION OF THE FEMALE OF *TRICHONYSSUS WOMERSLEYI* DOMROW (*ACARINA, MACRONYSSIDAE*)

by H. Womersley*

[Read 8 September 1960]

SUMMARY

The female of *Trichonyssus womersleyi* Domrow, 1958, a species hitherto known only from the male, is described.

In 1958 my colleague, Mr. R. Domrow (Proc. Linn. Soc., N.S.W., 83 (3), p. 220) erected a new genus *Trichonyssus* for the species described by myself in 1956 as *Chiroptonyssus australicus* (J. Linn. Soc., London, Zool., 43 (288), p. 597) and collected from an unidentified bat from South Australia. The species was only tentatively assigned to *Chiroptonyssus*.

The genus *Trichonyssus* was differentiated from *Chiroptonyssus* by Domrow as follows: in the female by the metasternal setae being free on the cuticle and not on small platelets, and in the male by the complete holoventral shield, the absence of a strong process on the femur of leg IV and the presence of very long setae posteriorly on the opisthoma.

In addition to designating *Chiroptonyssus australicus* Wom. as the genotype of his new genus *Trichonyssus* Domrow (loc. cit.) erected a second species *Trichonyssus womersleyi* for the two specimens which I described in 1957 as the males of *Plesiolaelaps miniopterus* sp. nov. (Trans. Roy. Soc., S.A., 80-70) from a bat *Miniopterus schreibersii blepotis* (Temmink) from Joanna, S. Australia. He showed that these males were not truly correlated with the holotype female. The genus *Plesiolaelaps* he placed in synonymy with *Spinolaelaps* Radford.

The males of *womersleyi* were distinguished from those of *australicus* by the long posterior opisthosomal setae being in two groups of seven instead of a continuous circlet of many more. The female of *womersleyi* has hitherto been unknown.

Recently, however, from a bat, *Chalinolobus gouldi gouldi* Gray, found on board a vessel at Port Adelaide, South Australia, 26th Feb., 1960, were obtained three males which were found to be conspecific with the holotype of *womersleyi* and two females which showed distinct differences from the females of *australicus* and are now ascribed to *T. womersleyi* Domrow.

Trichonyssus womersleyi Domrow.

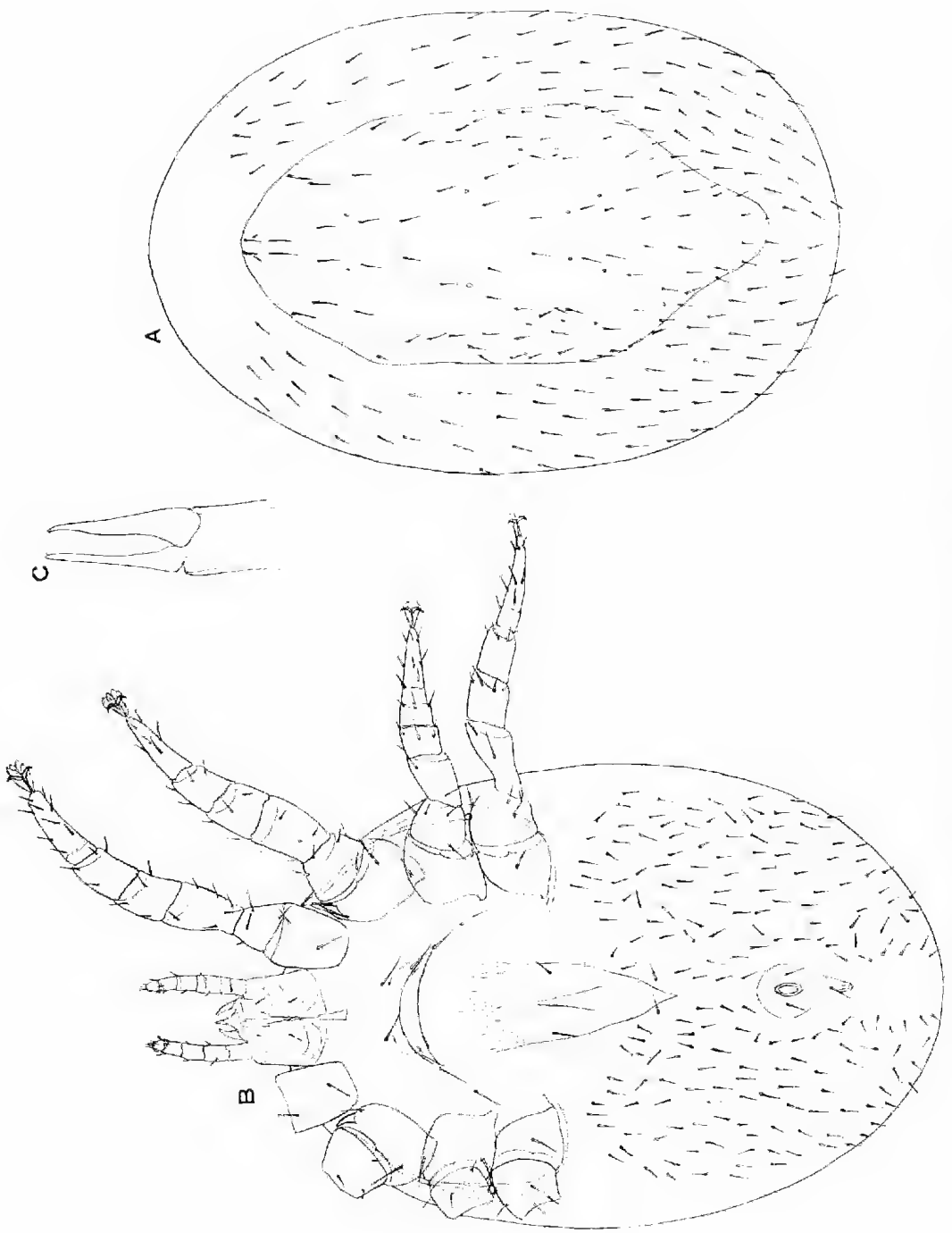
Domrow, R., 1958. Acarina from Australian Bats. Proc. Linn. Soc., N.S.W., 83 (3), p. 231.

Description of Allotype Female—A rather lightly sclerotised ovoid species. Length of idiosoma (gravid) 800μ, width 468μ.

Dorsum—With entire dorsal shield, not covering the whole body, 500μ long by 260μ wide, posteriorly becoming contracted to a rounded tip. Both shield and surrounding cuticle with numerous short pointed setae to 24μ long.

Venter—With only two pairs of setae on the sternal shield, the other pair being just, but only just, off the postero-lateral corners, the shield is 115μ wide between

* South Australian Museum.



Trichomyssus womersleyi Domrow, Female; A, dorsum; B, venter; C, chelicerae.

the third pair of setae and 43μ long in the median line, with strongly concave posterior margin and the posterior half more sclerotised and band-like; the metasternal setae are free on the cuticle; the genital shield tapers posteriorly to a very acute point, its length from the setae to the tip is 110μ and the setae are 67μ apart, anteriorly it is fimbriated; the anal shield is an elongate pear-shape, 105μ long by 52μ wide; ventral setae as on the dorsum and to 24μ long.

Legs—Normal, II the stoutest, I 608μ long, II 352μ long, III 327μ, IV 409μ; coxae II with a strongly antero-dorsal spur.

Remarks—Differs from the female of *australicus* Wom. in the shape of the dorsal and genital shields.